

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on Page 1, lines 5 - 9, with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- The present invention is a continuation of commonly-assigned U. S. Patent _____ (serial Patent Application number 09/782,773, filed February 13, 2001 (now U. S. Patent 7,003,083 B2), which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. The present invention is related to the following commonly-assigned U. S. ~~Patents~~ Patent Applications, both of which were filed on February 13, 2001 and are hereby incorporated herein by reference: U. S. Patent Application U. S. _____ (serial number 09/782,564 (now U. S. Patent 7,062,437 B2), entitled "Audio Renderings for Expressing Non-Audio Nuances", and U. S. Patent Application U. S. _____ (serial number 09/782,772[[I]]), entitled "Recording and Receiving Voice Mail with Freeform Bookmarks". --

Please replace the paragraph that begins on Page 22, line 18 and carries over to Page 23, line 10 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- The interactions shown in Fig. 1B are identical in elements 102 through 108, whereby the caller 100 initiates the phone call, selects a background sound in response to a request from the VMS, makes his selection (which is recorded by the VMS), and then begins speaking. At some point after the caller has been speaking his message, he elects to change the background sound. Preferably, he indicates his desire to make this change by pressing a predetermined key sequence that sends a DTMF tone as a signal to the VMS, such as the "*" key (as shown at 120 in Fig. 1B). The VMS then preferably prompts 121 the caller again, for his new background

choice. The caller may now choose a different background, or he may choose to have no background for his upcoming message segment, which is preferably conveyed by using DTMF tones as shown at 122. The VMS saves this new selection internally (123). The caller then continues speaking his voice message (124). He may repeat the process of changing his background sound more times (not shown in Fig. 1B), if desired, and eventually hangs up 109 when he is finished, causing the VMS to stop recording for this message (110). --